

The  
Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.  
CHRISTUS NOBISCUM STATE.

School Record.

1923-24.

# Alcester Grammar School Record.

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No. 18.

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EDITOR—MR. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—M. SHERWOOD, B. WELLS, L. SMITH,  
LESTER, PARTRIDGE, HODGKINSON.

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## Editorial.

We wish to thank all subscribers to the RECORD for the school year 1923-24. There is a very small deficit on the year's working, but we hope that with the beginning of a new session the number of subscribers will increase. It is our wish to reduce the price of the RECORD at an early date; this, however, is hardly possible until there is some increase in the total of copies sold. We do, therefore, appeal to everyone, both present and old scholars, to help us all they can by taking a copy of the RECORD each term.

## Headmaster's Letter.

DEAR READERS,

Once again the Editor tells me that a letter is due from me. What am I to say to you now that our school year is ending? Comment from me will hardly be necessary upon the various events of the past term, which are dealt with elsewhere. But I must, at any rate, congratulate Fred Bunting on being for the third year in succession champion in our Sports, and Meryl Thomas on winning for the second time the championship of the girls in lawn tennis.

I have been very pleased to notice the continued improvement of the girls' play. I am sure the standard gets better every year.

Amongst the boys there has again been plenty of keenness for cricket, though our team has not been up to that of last year. In our matches we have, on the whole, been almost more successful than we had reason to expect.

I should like here to impress upon our keen young cricketers this fact: that to learn play well you must play on a good ground, and the only way to keep a ground in good condition is to roll and mow, and mow and roll, which brings us to this—that you cannot have anything worth having without some trouble.

The end of the Summer term brings us to the testing time of examinations. Some of our old girls and boys, now at the universities, have been already successful in their finals. To them I send hearty congratulations, and I hope their successes will stimulate those who are still at school to further effort.

Some amongst us are about to try their fate in the Oxford School Certificate Examination. I wish them all success. But whether, when the results appear, they find themselves successful or not, if they have during the past put forward steady concentrated efforts, they will most certainly get their reward.

“ If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son! ”

In this quotation the girls must make the necessary alteration to fit their case.

Lastly—now that the long holiday is coming—don't forget that you belong to the school, be proud of her, and see to it that she may always have good reason to be proud of you.

YOUR HEADMASTER.

## **The School Register.**

### **Valete.**

Burdett, G. W. H. (VA), 1919-24.	Corbett, R. H. (IVa), 1922-24.
Alexander, P. M. (Vb), 1920-24.	Ainge, N. (IVb), 1918-24.
Bomford, K. (IVa), 1917-24.	Jeffcoat, A. J. (IVb), 1916-24.
Chapman, E. C. (IV.A), 1918-24.	Moore, K. (IVb), 1921-24.
Phoenix, B. W. (IVb), 1920-24.	

### **Salvete.**

Summers, B. J. (IIIb).  
Lane, B. E. (IIIb).

### **Old Scholars' News.**

The Annual Summer Meeting will be held in the School on Saturday, July 26th.

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Congratulations to R. H. Mander on obtaining his B.A. Hons. (Hist.), at Sheffield University, and also an extension of his Edgar Allen Scholarship for a fourth year.

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Also to E. F. Gander, who has gained her B.A. degree at Birmingham University.

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And to K. Fenn, on obtaining her Board of Education Teachers' Certificate.

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The Editor would be pleased to receive details of other successes among old scholars.

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In the Old Scholars v. School hockey match, played on April 5th, the School won by three goals to nil.

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### **"Our Gym" Class.**

Drill, indeed? Gymnasium, if you please! Innovations have taken place since you were at A.G.S. No doubt you have serene recollections of "trunk forward bends," "head to the right turns," and suchlike mild performances. Sometimes you used to march stealthily round the room, endeavouring to balance large volumes (Latin dictionaries, preferably, or the familiar green "Progressive Course of Comparative Geography," by P. H. L'Estrange, B.A.) on your heads; and what spasms of gratified revenge you experienced when they slipped, as they too frequently did, with a bang to the floor! Then I am sure you will remember the "flying" exercise, especially beneficial to the round-shouldered, crooked-spined, and generally deformed individuals. To-day, these comfortable, soothing exercises are no more; our drill class has now a more vigorous charm.

You, alas, old scholar, have not experienced the delights of "side-ways travelling," when your ankles glow with sharp encounters with the boom, when your arms threaten to part company with the rest of your racked body, when you creak in concord with the hinges of the instrument on which you are suspended. You have never felt the exquisite sensations which the various exercises on the wall-bars

afford, nor stifled shrieks of dubious excitement when kindly assistance has hauled you through a revolution on the boom. No, you have never gently bruised your knees on the horse, nor have you been opportunely prevented from ending your youthful existence by a too precipitate plunge at the buck. You never climbed the ropes, nor, turning a somersault on them, felt as if you had had some of the Scouts' "Irish stew" for dinner! Yet these are but a few of the delights of our "gym."

There is, however, a type of individual who does not appear to advantage in gymnasium—to wit, she who turns the scales at nine, ten, or eleven stone! Picturesque though she be, and a credit to her parents, it must be confessed that she is decidedly not a success in the "gym." In the first place she is a positive danger to her fellow beings, and an endless source of trouble. Never, never attempt "leap-frog" with her; it will inevitably end in disaster—for you! Confident in her own agility, she rushes towards you, gives a springless bound sufficient to land her in the middle of your back, and you are borne to the earth with a matter of a hundred and forty pounds on top of you. Not a very pleasant sensation—I speak from experience! Then again, she is by no means steady on her feet. "Hips firm, left foot backward place, left leg raise," we are commanded. The inevitable shuffling begins behind you. She wobbles. She sways violently. In desperation she frantically seizes your outstretched heel to steady herself, and—bump! If you escape with an injured nose you are lucky.

And this is the person to whom you have to render kindly assistance in almost every exercise. She must be "towed" on the boom, supported on the ropes, propped on the wall-bars, lugged over the horse, and lifted bodily over the buck!

"Let me have men about me that are fat," said Julius Cæsar. Evidently, he never did gymnasium.

M. S.

### **Notes and News.**

The summer term opened on April 30th, and closes on July 29th. The half-term holiday was arranged to coincide with Whitsuntide, school closing at mid-day on Friday and re-opening on the following Wednesday.

At the end of last term the annual awards of the football (presented by Mr. Bunting) and the hockey stick (presented by Mrs. Wells) were made. The recipients were Rook I. and M. Baylis.

The senior and junior cross-country races, which regularly precede Sports Day, were held on Friday, April 4th. Both events were excellently contested, the senior in particular providing a very close and exciting finish between Bunting and Perkins.

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"The Mile," run on the Birmingham Road on May 9th, was this year divided into two sections—an arrangement which proved highly satisfactory.

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This is the term of public examinations. The Oxford Locals commenced on July 15th, there being fourteen candidates for the "School Certificate" and for the "Higher School Certificate" one.

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The drawing examinations took place on July 2nd—4th.

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The annual music examinations—the School Examination of the Associated Boards—were held on Saturday, July 12th. The examiner was Mr. Victor Booth.

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Mr. Alexander, who has been on the staff since 1920, leaves us at the end of this term.

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There has been no shooting competition in connection with the Scouts this year. Last year the Cup was won outright by Hector Hall, who had secured it in three consecutive competitions.

### **Sports Day, 1924.**

Although this year's Sports Day was said by some knowing ones to be the thirteenth, and therefore unlucky, we were yet again favoured with admirable weather. Some rain clouds had gathered, but happily the sun shone out and dispersed them. Mr. Hall must be congratulated on his patience in carrying out on the field the preparations, which were considerably hampered by rain storms. The sports events were run off with great promptness, and roused the enthusiasm of the many friends who had come to witness them. Among the most popular events of the afternoon must be mentioned the two Relay Races, the Obstacle Race, and the High Jump, a pleasing feature being the exceptionally good jumping of the Juniors.

Congratulations are to be extended to all who helped in the arrangement of exhibits inside the building. The work of both boys and girls was, throughout, of a high standard, and it is pleasing to note that the entries from the boys are increasing in number. Some amusement was caused by the Scouts' competitions of cooking, darning, and button sewing, which were enthusiastically carried out.

After the Sports the usual gathering took place on the girls' playground, when Mrs. W. Jephcott kindly presented the Cup, Shields, and Medals to the winners. Congratulations are to be extended to F. Bunting upon winning the Cup for the third successive year with a fine total of 107 points, which, strange to say, is the same as his total the two previous years. Perkins was runner-up, with a total of 67 points. The Jackals were again successful in obtaining the Sports Shield, while the Tomtits claimed the Arts and Crafts Trophy.

Votes of thanks to Mrs. Jephcott, to the judges, and to Mr. Wells and the staff, brought the actual proceedings to a close, and so another Sports Day passed into school history. Appended are the chief results:—

## OVER 14.

Quarter-Mile.—1, Bunting; 2, Rook II.; 3, Wainwright.  
 100 Yards.—1, Shrimpton; 2, Perkins; 3, Andrews.  
 Half-Mile.—1, Edkins; 2, Finnemore; 3, Harwood.  
 Slow Bicycle Race.—1, Jones; 2, Smith; 3, Harwood.  
 220 Yards.—1, Edkins; 2, Bunting; 3, Rook II.  
 Hurdle Race.—1, Bunting; 2, Partridge I.; 3, Hodgkinson.  
 Consolation Race.—1, Shrimpton; 2, Perkins; 3, Andrews.  
 High Jump.—1, Bunting; 2, Finnemore; 3, Partridge I.  
 Throwing Cricket Ball.—1, Bunting; 2, Gothard; 3, Earp.  
 Cross-Country Race (5 miles).—1 Bunting; 2, Perkins; 3, Shrimpton.  
 Long Jump.—1, Bunting; 2, Perkins; 3, Partridge I.  
 One Mile.—1, Perkins; 2, Bunting; 3, Farmer I.  
 Obstacle Race.—1, Bunting; 2, Perkins; 3, Wainwright.

## 12—14.

100 Yards.—1, Guillaume; 2, Alexander; 3, Scriven.  
 220 Yards.—1, Summers; 2, Guillaume; 3, Bailey.  
 Crab Walk.—1, Holder; 2, Griffin I.; 3, Savage.  
 Half Mile.—1, Bird; 2, Bailey; 3, Barnett.  
 Obstacle Race.—1, Guillaume; 2, Holder I.; 3, Sisam.  
 Hurdle Race.—1, Savage; 2, Holder I.; 3, Corbett I.  
 High Jump.—1, Griffin II.; 2, Sisam; 3, Scriven.  
 Consolation Race.—1, Sisam; 2, Barnett; 3, Griffin I.  
 Slow Bicycle Race.—1, Sisam; 2, Harris I.; 3, Bagge.  
 Throwing Cricket Ball.—1, Corbett I.; 2, Farmer II.; 3, Sisam.  
 Cross-Country Race.—1, Scriven; 2, Savage; 3, Barnett.  
 Long Jump.—1, Holder and Guillaume; 3, Scriven.  
 One Mile.—1, Rook II.; 2, Edkins; 3, Wainwright.

UNDER 12.

Egg and Spoon.—1, Walters; 2, Bourne; 3, Dales.  
100 Yards.—1, Bourne; 2, Smith II.; 3, Jeffcoat.  
Obstacle Race.—1, Smith II.; 2, Ainge; 3, Walters.  
Sack Race.—1, Smith II.; 2, Corbett II.; 3, Sumner.

GIRLS' RACES—UNDER 12.

100 Yards.—1, E. Holder; 2, M. Inns; 3, M. Baylis.  
Egg and Spoon.—1, E. Holder; 2, H. Spencer; 3, M. Lane.  
Relay Race.—1, Tomtits; 2, Brownies; 3, Jackals.  
Potato Race.—1, E. Holder; 2, R. Antrobus; 3, H. Baylis.  
Skipping Race.—1, N. Baylis; 2, R. Antrobus; 3, M. Lane.  
Flower-Pot Race.—1, M. Lane; 2, T. Davis; 3, E. Ison.

OTHER EVENTS—BOYS' TEAMS.

Tug-of-War.—1, Tomtits; 2, Brownies.  
Relay Race.—1, Tomtits; 2, Jackals; 3, Brownies.

The following boys gained Medals for their work in the Sports :—  
SILVER.—Bunting, Perkins, Rook II., Scriven, Shrimpton, Edkins, Smith II., Bird, Guillaume.

BRONZE.—Corbett I., Savage, Holder I., Finnemore, Summers I., Bourne, Bailey, Griffin II., Sisam.

The games and competitions for the Sports Shield resulted as follows :—

1. Jackals, with 477 points.
2. Tomtits, with 377 points.
3. Brownies, with 267 points.

A. J. P.

### **Sports Day Indoors.**

Sports Day this year had a new meaning to me. Previously I seemed to have looked upon this memorable day as a time for eating ices and enjoying myself. But this year I was to help in the selling departments. I had heard tales of those who in previous years had been thus engaged, and who had made great blunders in the matter of change and such things; but I decided to do the thing properly.

We assembled in a class-room, where there were handed out little red bags and a certain sum for change. We took our places at the stalls, and with eager eyes watched the fingers of the clock move on so slowly towards half-past two! At last the visitors began to arrive. Our stall, I should say, was a mixture of cakes and biscuits. At first prospects did not look very encouraging, for all seemed much more intent on the beautifully embroidered tray cloths and d'oyleys on the one side of the room, or at the wonderful exhibits of art on the other. I passed my time in counting the change in my bag while my partner arranged the cakes and biscuits. In the midst of my dream I was suddenly awakened by a severe thump and a "buck up with



the change." I jumped to my feet, and in so doing I, of course, upset my luckless bag. Out rolled the coins across the floor, under the benches and tables and in the farthest corners of the room. "Oh, dear," I groaned, as I groped about under the tables for sixpences and pennies. At last they were all recovered; but oh, what a mess I was in. However, there was no time for tidying, for "three half-pence change, quick," I heard, and immediately plunged my hand into the little red bag, only to bring out two shillings. At last three half-pence was produced.

And now that the afternoon was wearing on, and it was beginning to get very hot, the visitors were passing outside to see the boys' sports. Our stall was still very full, and we were getting rather anxious. At last, however, a kindly being took pity on us, and consented to buy a sponge roll. "Yes," I said, "will you take it now?" She nodded. I seized a paper bag, and was just slipping in the cake when I felt a nudge in my back. I turned round. "What's that you are selling—my sponge cake? It is not for sale. Can't you see the label?" "Oh——!" I gasped, as I caught sight of a scrap of paper on the plate, "I'm so sorry." I turned to my customer: "I'm very sorry," I said; "but I never noticed that this cake—is—is not for sale." "Oh, I see," she said, somewhat stiffly, and left me.

I then noticed my partner trying to sell a cake. It was one I had made, which I considered quite a masterpiece. The old lady was saying, "Oh, dear, no; I don't like the look of that cake. Why! (as she lifted it up) it's as heavy as lead! That's what I call a pudding!" And I stood there boiling and fuming, not daring to say a word.

After many experiences of this kind we were glad when the time came for us to assemble on the girl's playground when Mrs. Jephcott kindly attended to present the Cup, Shields, and Medals to the winners. The following girls were awarded Medals for their work:—Silver Medals—SENIORS: J. Wells, 154 points; B. Thomas, 147; M. Griffiths, 113; D. Balmforth, 95; M. Thomas, 87; G. Bishop, 81. JUNIORS: Marjorie Thomas, 158; M. Lane, 108; O. Hansell, 91. Bronze Medals—SENIORS: B. Wells, 68; M. Sisam, 63; M. Baylis, 53; Bunting, 52; Partridge, 47; M. Sherwood, 43. The contest for the Arts and Crafts Shield resulted as follows:—

1. TOMTITS, 1,030 (of which the boys made 137).
2. BROWNIES, 984 (boys 202).
3. JACKALS, 958 (boys 206).

E. L.

### Compton Wynyates.

I know of nothing so fascinating as an old country house, and England should be proud of the number which she has preserved. They cannot inspire the same feeling of greatness and awe, but they are often as beautiful as, and always more homely, than castles. Compton Wynyates, though not very well known, is a most fascinating place.

It lies near Kineton, between the two small villages of Tysoe and Winderton, standing in a narrow, well-wooded valley. In spring time it makes a pleasing picture from above. It is built in red stone, with the central porch having two half-timbered gables on each side. The whole building is battlemented except for the gables, and the chimneys, of a zig-zag pattern, add a unique picturesqueness. All the exterior is covered with creepers, wistaria, and ivy. The old moat has been filled in—all but a small portion on the north side. On all the other sides the house is surrounded by a beautiful garden, remarkable for the numerous yew trees which are clipped into many strange shapes, and the slopes beyond are covered with primroses. The house, indeed, has ideal surroundings to set off its own beauty.

Over the arch of the entrance porch are the arms of Henry VIII., and above them an inscription. There was once a drawbridge, but it no longer exists. The old oak doors show signs of bombardment, but they resisted many attacks. The porch leads to the inner court, which has its walls covered with creepers. There is a most beautiful window on the right, and on the left, between two windows, is a lion's head in stone, which is said to have poured forth wine, supplied from inside, on festive occasions. The house contains eighty rooms, but some are more interesting than others. From the hall, entered from the courtyard, passages lead to the kitchens, which contain old Tudor fireplaces. The hall rises to the full height of the house, and has an open, timbered roof. At one end is the minstrels' gallery, half-timbered. The great parlour is entirely oak-panelled, and has the Compton arms on the ceiling. The chapel is on the south side of the court, and is divided into two portions by an oak screen. Above this are carved panels representing Christ, the Virgin, and the deadly sins. The great window is on the south-west of the chapel.

Up the great staircase you come to the drawing room, also panelled, and the various chambers which have been occupied by royalties. In the great tower is the council chamber, reached by a circular staircase. This room is remarkable for the split oak-panelling, where the grain of the wood is beautifully shown. The house contains many hiding places, and about one there is a tragic story. About 1770, as Lady Francis Compton played there as a child, she fell against the wall, and the sound was so hollow that investigations were made. In this secret place were found the skeletons of a woman and two children. It is supposed that they were hidden there in time of trouble and forgotten. The house was built probably in the time of Henry VIII., although the property had belonged to the Compton family for centuries before. Although the house was captured in the Civil War, it was restored to the family in later years.

The church, outside the garden, is not the original church—that was destroyed in the Civil War—but one built in 1663. It is a very small church, with a double nave. It contains the figures of Sir William Compton, the builder of the house, with his wife, and the first baron Compton with his two wives. The last view you have of the house from the road is over the water, with a background of trees—a most impressive scene, which makes one feel that Compton Wynyates ranks among England's valuable possessions.

B. W. W.

### *Olla Prodrida.*

Unprecedented responsibilities seem nowadays to rest upon our scientific men. J. H. informs us that "a chemist is a man we go to in our mental troubles."

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No wonder that such striking exhibits occasionally find their way into our Arts and Crafts Photographic Competitions. F.B., with startling originality, makes use of black light for his developing.

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A certain member of IIIb has already decided that translation from the Latin is remarkably easy, and even descriptions of queens have no terrors for him. Thus, "*Maria est magna et bona*" means "Mary is big and bonny." Examination candidates, please note!

We are told, on rather doubtful authority, that an unfortunate member of the Junior School has recently been bitten by an Eskimo!

## **Sides' Notes.**

### **Brownies.**

This year the Brownies have not met with very great success in either Hockey or Football, owing to the number of small members in the teams. Nevertheless, much promise for the coming season is shown, and a keenness which is very encouraging. On Sports' Day, too, the loss of those athletes who had before brought us so much success was felt.

In the Arts and Crafts the efforts of boys and girls alike were better rewarded, and we succeeded in gaining the second place, and the Shield was lost by only about thirty points. In the part song, though our singers were small, we were again second; while in the team reading our seniors were first and our juniors third—an achievement which we considered decidedly gratifying. Despite the fact that we obtained neither of the shields, we are not discouraged; but, following the advice of the old maxim, we are going to “try, try, try again.”

### **Jackals.**

This year the Jackals have been very successful as regards sports, having obtained the largest total of points both in hockey and football. As a result of the boys' united efforts we won the Sports Shield by a large majority. The Cup was gained by our captain, Bunting, who now holds it for the third year. The efforts of the boys and girls to win the Arts and Crafts Shield were not successful, but the keenness shown by our boys to play their part for their side was very encouraging, and perhaps next year, with more hard work, we may succeed in our attempts.

### **Tomtits.**

This year the Tomtits have terminated their run of bad luck. In hockey during the autumn the girls were beaten by the Jackals and drew with the Brownies, and in football the boys beat the Brownies and were beaten by the Jackals. In the spring term the girls drew with the Jackals and defeated the Brownies, while the boys drew with the

Jackals and were defeated by the Brownies. In tennis and cricket great promise has been shown. On Sports Day the Tomtits were more than usually successful, winning all three team events, the two relay races, and the tug-of-war, and being second in running for the Sports Shield.

On the Arts and Crafts side the Tomtits were even more successful, coming out first in the part song, first in the junior, and second in the senior team reading. Some of the younger Tomtits are very keen, and so we are hoping for many successes in the future.

### **Some Tendencies of Student Life.**

Nearly eight centuries ago the first Universities of Europe received their charters from Pope or Emperor, and a study of their history and development is extremely interesting. When, from the standpoint of to-day, we look back upon the quaint houses which were at first the homes of learning, and see in perspective the poor struggling scholar and his harassed professor, we are inclined to find little in common between the mediæval and the most modern universities. Yet, as a matter of fact, certain resemblances exist, and one likes to recognise in our modern universities the realisation of dreams which received expression in Salerno, Bologna, Paris, and Oxford. The mediæval Latin term, "universitas," denoted any community or corporation regarded under its collective aspect, and the early university was a glorified guild offering instruction to students of various nationalities in all subjects known to man. The guild spirit which pervaded it made imperative some scheme which would give it safety and independence from civic or governmental interference. Thus there sprang up a corporate and democratic spirit which led the universities to become the haunts of the most advanced thinkers of the ages, and often within their walls were nourished great discontents and revolutions before which even monarchs quailed.

To-day, the same spirit of independence pervades our universities, and with it has grown that wholesome criticism of public and daily life which youth is willing to give so freely. The corporate spirit of the mediæval university is enhanced in the cheerful atmosphere of club-room and common-room, and, with few exceptions, most students take a keen interest in the welfare and achievements of their

fellows in the university. This corporate spirit is fostered by the natural idealism of youth, which ever desires the best conditions possible for its activities. In work and on the playing fields, the university, then, may be termed a whole.

But our universities to-day are not the small, isolated units of the Middle Ages. Each possesses a students' union, which gives expression to the popular feeling in the university, and each union is so linked up with its sister unions that a strong national feeling now pervades our universities. As the National Union of Students, it gives weight to the demand for the national expression of the students of this country, and by promoting intercourse between universities at debates and conferences it is rapidly organising the English students into a powerful and corporate whole. Then, again, its principles go further. Although the N.U.S. is a very young body, its members are already giving their support to the idea of an International Confederation of Students (C.I.E.), which will embrace the students of every country in Europe. Its ultimate aim is to establish a world-wide organisation of students from every race under the sun, and we can only hope that such idealism will find ultimate and complete expression in practice. This year a vast congress is to be held at Warsaw, and many British will attend to answer the call of the small European nations that England shall take the lead in the proposed confederation. If the League of Nations has failed, it may be that this C.I.E. will be able to take its place, based, as it is, on mutual goodwill and assistance among students all over the world. Here, indeed, are the seeds of great promise, and one is proud to belong to a body that greets the Egyptian and the Indian, the Japanese and the Siamese, with the frankness customary in dealing with our Continental friends.

Many have doubted whether the youth of England realises its responsibilities. From a student's stand-point such a question is superfluous. There may be agnostics among us, and even atheists, although the late University Mission at Sheffield found few who dared to acknowledge their creed in the face of Christians. We find that every student has his political sympathies, but there are few who cannot do something to justify their sympathies. Though the red flag of Bolshevism and the crimson streamers of Socialism have been waved in other countries, yet withal there is a strong conservative spirit underlying it all. There are traditions to be preserved and created and great ideals to fight for, and in this the student thinks with Browning:

“ It was better, youth  
Should strive, through acts uncouth,  
Toward making, than repose on aught found made.”

Let those who doubt take heart in this: Their young men are seeing visions and dreaming dreams, and much light may yet be shed by arts and sciences on the meaning and ultimate destination of man's existence. Like O'Shaughnessy's music-makers, the student works in the past, the present, and the future, and on the achievements of the past he is fashioning an empire's glory; and this is certain—that the honour of old England has never been in safer hands than it will be in the immediate future.

E. H. M.

### **A Romance of the Road.**

One cold winter day there was driving away from Ragley Hall a coach with four white horses drawing it. The driver on the box was very well muffled up, and had evidently been feeling the intense cold. Inside the coach was a young lady who had been attending a ball at Ragley. She had on many pieces of valuable jewellery, and was looking nervous, for this was in the days of highwaymen and robbers. Through old Alcester they drove, and were soon out on Icknield Street. But while this was happening something very different was going on along the road in front of them. A couple of highwaymen were hiding near the toll gate just before Coughton. Their faces were covered with black masks, and their old-fashioned pistols were in their hands. A pair of beautiful white horses were tethered to the hedge, and these well-trained animals were not making the slightest sound. The men were the most feared highwaymen of the district, and were going to rob the coach that had come rumbling down from Ragley. They knew the coach would have to stop at the toll gate, and were listening carefully for the “trot trot” of the horses' hoofs and the rumbling of the coach wheels on the bumpy ground. At last they heard the approaching carriage plainly and distinctly. They whispered for a minute, and then crouched down in front of a large hole in the hedge. Now they could see the coach coming slowly towards them. As it drew up in front of them they sprang from their places, and one went to the driver and another to the lady. Both were soon firmly tied and gagged, and all the valuables taken.

Then the highwaymen mounted their trusty horses, who, by this time, were champing and tearing at their bits, and the party rode away. The toll gate being shut, they had to ride through Alcester. They galloped their horses at the fastest possible speed, and arrived at Alcester unnoticed. Here, however, they were seen, and soon many people were following them. Once they turned and fired into the crowd, and that was enough. They escaped unharmed, carrying away booty to the value of £1,000.

M. TAYLOR (III<sup>B</sup>).

### **A Sports Day Miscellany.**

[We must apologise to our readers for the inclusion, side by side with articles in true classic style, of the following atrocity. A word of explanation is necessary. The writer, who prefers to remain anonymous, after a week of great anxiety, supped heavily one Friday evening, and—well, this is the result.—ED.]

On the Wednesday before Sports wells and brookes were deep in the dales on the field, but on Thursday, discarding Harris's and donning spencers, we enjoyed real summer's heat.

Partridges, rooks, and sparrows flew on to the green course, followed by the jumping griffens which the farmer had let loose by mistake. They all settled amongst the bunting so that the hunt for racers should never lose pace.

The summer for the race ahead gave photographers a chance to steele in and crouch for a snap, though savage remarks were heard at the intrusion.

"Hold 'er back, I want them all in," and the offender who had lain low retired like a lamb.

The hall and art room were the exhibition chambers, and weather up or down the walkers went to look around, in the absence of the bishop, visiting deans had pronounced the bennett on the goods displayed.



Boys had made bread buns. "Cook them? Of course they did. By their brown looks they might have been done in a furnace, and oh! evans 'twould almost take a derrick to move them."

It got hard to keep anchor at any spot, and needed a Johnson to stem being bourne by the throng. The Chattaway in the corner—where Joan's knight had left her in solitude—drifted to the hemming, which required neither Davies' discovery nor his lamp to enhance its beauty.

The shepherd of sports and his staff retired to total results, whilst the waggons of the wainwright and smith, remained onlookers of return, and each child took home its bag.

### **The Scouts.**

To the Scouts the principal event of this term was undoubtedly their third annual outing. Each time we have gone further afield, and I think that we have enjoyed ourselves more than ever this year. Maybe, the farther we get from School the better fun we think we're having! Our journey to Symonds Yat was, as far as Malvern, along the same route that we had traversed before. We stopped for a few minutes to renew our acquaintance with the British Camp, and thence onward we broke new ground. At Ross, our second halt, we first saw the Wye. From there on we were never far from it.

One of the most striking features of the journey was the number of steam rollers used in Worcestershire road mending. We seemed to be slowing down to pass one before we had speeded up again after passing the one before. The recent floods had left their marks upon the roads, as upon many other things; at one place the road looked as though some giant had been biting lumps out of it. Worcestershire County Cricket Ground was still under water.

The charabanc could not get beyond Whitchurch, and so we had to walk a mile or so to Symonds Yat. After crossing the rather primitive ferry and lunching, we made our way over the railway to a path leading along the valley between the railway and the hillside. Here some of us had a sort of climbing race to the foot of a rock said to be one of "seven sisters." After waiting a considerable time for some wanderers to return, we made our way along the path in

search of some interesting caves. When we had proceeded some distance we came to a small quarry where the stone-crushing machinery and pneumatic drill excited interest. Here we learnt that the caves were a mile or two back on the way we had come. Nobody had noticed them, but when we had nearly reached our starting point we saw them—on the other side of the river!

By now most of us were in urgent need of tea, so there were few laggards. After tea everyone (except the pianists among us) agreed that a little music would not come amiss. Gentle persuasion failing, we had a new illustration of the old proverb—"You may take a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink." Still, we did at last have a few popular songs. Next outing lack of music will not be accepted as an excuse when pianists are called upon to oblige. It was now time for us to start home. Our return route was the same as our outward one, except that we went through Great Malvern instead of passing round it by way of the Wyche. We stopped this time at Worcester. We reached home tired but happy, and after cheers for Mr. Walker and our very capable driver we dispersed. I think that all the Scouts will agree with me that it was a very enjoyable day.

In spite of such an important happening as this, other scouting activities must not be forgotten. Some more second-class tests have been carried out. The Scout Competitions for the Arts and Crafts Shield were amusing—to the onlookers! Most of the spectators of the feminine gender seemed to think that cooking a stew on a camp fire was impossible when undertaken by boys. At any rate, no one was poisoned; it was part of the test to eat one's own concoction, and I understand that all who went in for this competition passed the cooking test for the Second-Class Badge. Button sewing, darning, and bread-and-butter cutting competitions were a trial to many. All the entrants seemed hopeless until the results were known.

PATROL LEADER.

### Cricket.

Captain: BUNTING.

Secretary: GOTHARD.

Cricket this year has had to contend with a certain amount of disappointment, and the number of games has been considerably curtailed. In the first place, the early part of the term was very wet, and day after day the practice pitches

were quite unfit for play. Further, we were unable to obtain the use of the ground in Ragley Park for our regular programme of Saturday matches, and our home fixtures were reduced thereby to merely two. Yet, in spite of these unfortunate conditions, keenness for the game has in no wise diminished. Every opportunity of using the school field has been taken, and the matches with the neighbouring schools have been engaged in with the same spirit of keenness and friendly rivalry which has distinguished them in the past. Up to the present the wickets have all favoured the bowlers, and no great batting performances are to be mentioned. But if our own scores have been low, so also have been those of our opponents.

#### RESULTS (to date):

May 17	...	A.G.S.	65	v. Bromsgrove S.S.	64 (away).
" 31	...	A.G.S.	42 for 6 wickets	v. Redditch S.S.	18 (away).
June 21	...	A.G.S.	28	v. Redditch S.S.	31 (home).
" 25	...	A.G.S.	58	v. Stratford G.S.	45 (home).
" 28	...	A.G.S.	81	v. Temple Grafton	93 (away).
July 2	...	A.G.S.	103	v. Stratford G.S.	96 (away).
" 5	...	A.G.S.	16	v. Evesham P.H.G.S.	49 (away).

#### Tennis.

In spite of the inevitable spells of wet weather, we have had a very successful tennis season. Challenges in the lower and middle school have been undertaken with unabated enthusiasm, but the majority of the upper school, excluding, of course, the "Suzannes", in the first Division, remain contentedly in Division II. There were eleven entries for the Gold Medal this year, and considerable talent has been displayed in the ties. In the semi-final J. Wells defeated B. Thomas 4—6, 8—6, 9—7, and M. Thomas defeated M. Sisam 6—0, 7—9, 6—0. The final was played on Wednesday, June 30th, M. Thomas winning the Gold Medal by defeating J. Wells 6—4, 6—4.

The girls of VB, VA, and VI were amply rewarded for their strenuous (?) services on Sports' Day by a very enjoyable tournament the following afternoon. A match, VA v. VB and VI, has been arranged for Wednesday, July 9th, and the girls are looking forward to their annual Tennis Tournament on Saturday, July 12th.

### **The Wireless Society.**

An important event of this term has been the formation of a Wireless Society. A preliminary business meeting was held on Monday, June 30th. Mr. Hall was elected president, and Hodgkinson secretary. A committee of five was formed, consisting of the president, the secretary, and Lester, Earp, and Smith I. The committee was chosen to represent, as far as possible, the five forms to which the Wireless Society was open. It was decided that meetings should be held fortnightly, and special meetings should be called when necessary. It was also decided that the business of the first meeting (to be held next term) should be to discuss the aims of the Society. At the present time there are about twenty members. Although the Society is open to both girls and boys, none of the former have yet become members.

H. H. (Hon. Secretary).

### **Postage Stamp Club.**

The various outdoor occupations in which we indulge during the summer term have made it difficult for meetings of the club to be held as frequently as in the autumn and spring. There have been at present only two short meetings, both well attended. We hope after the holidays to resume our weekly programme, and shall be pleased to welcome new members.

### **For the Juniors.**

#### **In a Rose.**

Once upon a time, in a beautiful garden, where there were thousands of flowers, there was a very large rose, which grew in a large bed at the bottom of the garden. In this rose there lived a tiny elf, called Pickle. He was very mischievous, and every night he went with his friend, Mr. Bunny, to a big lawn in front of a very big house. Pickle rode on a little white moth, and Mr. Bunny rode on his friend, Mr. Rat, who had wings and could fly.

One night Pickle made a feast, and asked all the pixies in the garden, and Pickle brought a big toadstool and several other little ones, and they asked Mr. Bee to give them some honey for a drink. Another night Pickle told the pixies that it was Queen Mab's birthday, and that she was coming to hold it on the big lawn. Soon they heard the faint little bells tinkling, and they knew that the fairies were coming, for the tinkling was the little bells that hung from their dresses. Soon they saw a small snail shell, and on the bottom was a pansy, and on that was seated a tiny fairy lady, who was very delicate. She was wearing a little green robe which reached the ground, and in her left hand she held a wand, which had a silver star on it. She had a moonbeam cloak, which had touches of silver on it, and behind her shoulders were four silver wings, and behind her were her fairies holding up her train so that it should not fall outside the carriage. There were two yellow moths pulling the carriage.

The fairy Queen got out of her carriage, and said to her fairies: "Is the feast ready?" And they said: "Yes, your Majesty, it is." Then the fairy queen sat down and ate her feast with the fairies and pixies and elves. Then, just at that moment Pickle woke up and found that they had been asleep in the beautiful rose all the time.

J. LANE (AGE 9, 1B).

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There was once a dog who said:

"I should like  
Very much to fight,  
On a stormy night,  
The cat so fat.  
That sits on the mat."  
And he did

D. MORGAN.